

## Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 AF-10  
ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /090 W  
-----004241 060051Z /63

R 051650Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4821  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 05323

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB, UK  
SUBJECT: 9TH WFTU CONGRESS IN PRAGUE - APRIL 16-20 -  
BRITISH PRESENCE

REF: PRAGUE 0799

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SUMMARY: THE TUC IS SENDING NO ONE TO THE PRAGUE  
CONGRESS, ALTHOUGH SOME INDIVIDUAL UNIONS ARE SENDING  
OBSERVERS -- AMONG THEM TWO GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS, WHO  
HABITUALLY TRAVEL BOTH EAST AND WEST. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES HERE, (INCLUDING THE  
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WHICH IS INFORMALLY

FOLLOWING THE PRAGUE CONGRESS), THE WFTU SEEMS TO HAVE LIBERALLY DISTRIBUTED INVITATIONS IN BRITAIN TO SEND OBSERVERS TO THE 9TH WFTU CONGRESS IN PRAGUE APRIL 16-20 THE TUC IS ASSUMING AN OFFICIAL POSTURE OF IGNORING THE PRAGUE CONGRESS. AS DEFINED BY TUC INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEAD ALLAN HARGREAVES, FOR THE TUC, "THE POINT DOES NOT ARISE REGARDING ATTENDANCE".

2. GENERAL COUNCIL SOURCES INDICATE THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID STIRRING INTEREST IN ATTENDANCE OR ATTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANCE TO THE PRAGUE MEETING, THE TUC IS NOT MAKING AN ISSUE OVER THOSE AFFILIATES WHO MAY SEND OBSERVERS. ALSO THEY NOTE THE TUC IS NOT IN A POSITION TO STOP ANYONE FROM GOING. THUS, THE TUC OFFICIAL POSITION IS NOT TO ASK AFFILIATES ABOUT INTENTIONS TO ATTEND, WHILE THOSE WHO MAY ATTEND (ACCORDING TO TOP TUC STAFF) ARE NOT ASKING FOR ADVICE OR INFORMING THE TUC OF THEIR PLANS.

3. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE TUC HAS EVER RECEIVED AN INVITATION. IN ANY EVENT, ACCORDING TO GENERAL COUNCIL SOURCES, THERE IS NO RECORD OF A WFTU INVITATION COMING BEFORE THE GENERAL COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION -- SOMETHING WHICH MIGHT HAVE OPENED THE WAY FOR THE COMMUNIST AND "LEFT WING" MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL TO PRESS FOR REPRESENTATION AT PRAGUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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THE 1975 BLACKPOOL TUC RESOLUTION "TO BRING... THE WFTU AND ICFTU MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER".

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO NOTICEABLE PUBLICITY HERE ABOUT THE PRAGUE CONGRESS. AS GATHERED FROM ROUTINE CONTACTS, OF THOSE GOING TO PRAGUE, THE BEST KNOWN ARE TWO GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS, JOE GORMLEY, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINE WORKERS (NUM) AND RAY BUCKTON, GENERAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 05323

SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATED SOCIETY OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND FIREMEN (ASLEF). BOTH, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION, STATE THEY ARE ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR PAST HABITS OF MAINTAINING CONTACTS IN THE EAST AND WEST AND TO "SEE WHAT IS GOING ON". THEY STRESS THEY ARE NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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REPRESENTING THE TUC, THAT THEY ARE "OBSERVERS", AND THAT THEIR UNIONS ARE PAYING THEIR TRAVEL EXPENSES. GORMLEY CLAIMS THAT NUM NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD ROUTINELY UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE WFTU INVITATION AND THAT HE HAD ENGINEERED THE SELECTION OF TWO "OTHER MODERATES" FROM THE NUM EXECUTIVE TO GO WITH HIM TO AVOID THE NUM PRESENCE IN PRAGUE FALLING IN THE HANDS OF "LEFT WINGERS".

5. ABOUT TEN OTHER UNION OBSERVERS WHO ARE SAID TO BE GOING TO PRAGUE ARE VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN LESSER LIGHTS.

THEY ARE FROM THE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS LEFT-WING-ORIENTED SECTIONS OF THE AMALGAMATED UNION OF ENGINEERING WORKERS (THE TECHNICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SCIENTIFIC SECTION; THE FOUNDRY WORKERS SECTION. AND THE CONSTRUCTION SECTION), THE LEFT-WING-LED NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, AND FROM THE COMMUNIST-LED SCOTTISH TUC.

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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014